

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Cynthia Schultz, Amy Countryman, George Huntington, Amanda Figolah, Caleb Steiner

Regrets: David Parkhurst, Ted Mendoza, Janice Lilly, David Rollo, Ashley Skooglund, and Bill Brown

Staff: Chris Bentley, Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Announcements:

- *Open House, Feb 26, 2-4 pm, Solar Furnace
- *Feb. 18th Horrible, Terrible, No Good Bike Ride
- *Green Drinks Wed. 22 Feb. Upland
- *Presentation to students and possibly an administrator at South High School on greening cafeteria
- *Green Prom, collecting dresses with fashion show of second hand dresses. Contact Amanda if interested in more information
- *Community Orchard Work days, Sunday's from 1-5 pm. Check out the website for calendar events
- *Imagine Bloomington. First meeting 21 Feb. Ten meetings to discuss the future of Bloomington. Visit Bloomington.in.gov/imaginebloomington for more information
- *Greening the Heartland conference, May 15-18 in Indianapolis, calling for table sponsor. Contact Ted or visit USGBC national website.

Approval of Minutes:

The January meeting's minutes will be sent out next week and then adopted at March's meeting.

Presentation by EarthCare

Ben Brabson gave a presentation regarding the need for reducing green house gas emissions. We have two options for controlling climate change: new technology and changing behavior. Ben recommended BCOS members read the article, "Leaping the Energy Gap." He also gave some examples of ways of reducing our energy use: high efficiency homes, generating own energy and food, white roofs on schools, electric vehicle charging stations, etc. Although most of our electricity comes from coal, buying an electric car is still good because eventually the energy production will catch up with the sustainability efforts and our energy sources will get greener.

Earth Care is proposing that Bloomington take a year and see if we can make a significant cut in our conventional energy use. The goal proposed was 40%. Some possible ways of achieving this energy use goal include creating a website to share stories of what has been done to use alternative fuels; officially kicking off on Earth Day followed by inviting everyone to participate in an Independence Day from fossil fuels event; and, ultimately, getting everyone on board from the schools to the government to the businesses and so on.

ACTION ITEM: BCOS will add a brainstorming session for next meeting as to how BCOS can help with Earth Care's vision. Be thinking of individuals and organizations who could serve on a steering committee to make this goal a reality.

Public Comment:

Ben Brabson and two other Earth Care representatives and Valerie Lonneman, a potential BCOS member, were present.

No public comments were made.

Report from the Chair:

a. Maggie lead a follow-up discussion of project suggestions for 2012

- MLK Energy Improvement event took place. Next year we could use more team leaders so we can spread out teams more widely.
- Partnering with Earth Care to do the Task of the Month. Earth Care's presentation outlined a different approach BCOS can take to support their efforts in the 40% energy reduction.
- Caleb could work with WFHB
- Ted could work with WFIU
- Spring: rain barrel auction/workshop. Melissa was the driving force on that though and she's no longer with BCOS.
 - Anyone passionate about that?
 - Bloomington Master Gardener may be a contact
 - Maggie will meet with Amy Thompson at the Extension Office.
- Launch of gardening year in partnership with the Food Council
 - Celebration of the opening of gardening season, May 19 for Farmer's Market

ACTION ITEM: Chris will serve on planning committee for Launch of Gardening season

- BCOS could consider working with Benjamin Schultz (and potentially Local First or the Chamber of Commerce) to build infrastructure for website for green business certification. There's a website being generated to support this effort. Eventually all data will be captured by a database. Different checklists are being generated for specific types of businesses.
 - Could there be any money to offer a financial incentive for businesses?
 - There's some potential for that, but need to find a funding source. The funding could be treated as a revolving loan fund to finance energy or other improvements if the funding could be found.
- No BCOS-specific ImagineBloomington meeting will be held but attend the Environmental Commission meeting on Feb. 23 or one of the larger community meetings if interested in getting involved.

- Working on writing a letter supporting alternative transportation. Ensuring that some of the road maintenance funds go toward alternative transportation.
 - At the March meeting BCOS will consider writing a letter in support of the Farm Bill
- d. Confirm availability for March 13th meeting
- Most BCOS members present will be available for the March meeting.

Report from Sustainability Coordinator:

Come to the Horrible Terrible No Good Bike Ride, Feb 18th 10 am. Meet at City Hall

Committee Report:

- Environmental Commission Planning Committee: This committee reviews proposals for new developments throughout the community. Caleb has attended recent meetings to comment on plans.
- Maggie attended the first Switchyard meeting. The Switchyard community meetings are being held to help steer the planning of the development of the Switchyard property that runs parallel to the B-Line trail at the southern end. The property is around 80 acres and many possibilities exist for its development to be a great asset to the sustainability of Bloomington.
- STAR: Finishing up Transportation, and now working on Recycling and Waste
 - Recycling/household
 - # of businesses and apartment complexes that offer recycling
 - Next meeting will be held Feb. 28th @ noon
 - The downtown recycling facilities are being used fairly heavily and will hopefully be used even more.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:20.